



Mishawaka Communicator



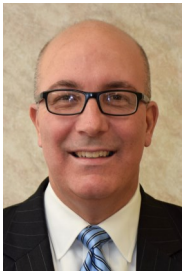
Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

March 2020

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



THE 2020 CENSUS AT A GLANCE

Many times, calls come into my office asking if a program is legitimate or if it is a **SCAM**. Unfortunately, there are many attempts out there be it through email, traditional mail, home visit or phone to attempt to defraud people out of their hard-earned money. It can have the effect of making us cynical and skeptical of even answering the phone unless we recognize the number. I want to take this opportunity to let you know that sometime in March, everyone can expect an official mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau. **This is not a scam.** This is a very important document that we all need to respond to.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency. They are dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people, places, and economy. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects.

The U.S. Constitution **requires** that each decade, the Federal Government take a count—or a census—of America's population. The census provides vital information for you and the community in which you live:

- The census determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services.
- Businesses may use census data to determine where to locate.

Each year the government distributes hundreds of billions of dollars to states and communities based on Census Bureau data.

In 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau plans on implementing new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time, you will be able to respond online, by telephone, as well as, by mail. They will use data that the public has provided to reduce follow-up visits. They are building an accurate address list and automating their field operations - all while keeping your information confidential and safe. All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information and any violation of this oath comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

(cont'd on next page)

How to Dispose of Your Syringes, Test Strips and Lancets

Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System

If you're diabetic, you likely have to check your blood sugar with single-use test strips and lancets, and possibly take insulin shots using syringes. Doing this every day means you accumulate medical waste that you may wonder how to dispose of properly.

Each county in Indiana has its own rules about disposal of diabetic supplies. In St. Joseph County, to dispose of your syringes, lancets and used test strips:

- Place the items in a non-penetrable container. You can purchase a sharps container, but old laundry detergent bottles or similar hard, plastic containers also work well.
- When the bottle is 3/4 full, close the bottle with a tight-fitting lid and tape the lid shut (duct tape works well). Write "DO NOT RECYCLE" on the container.
- Place the container in your regular trash receptacle. **DO NOT RECYCLE. DO NOT THROW SHARPS LOOSELY IN THE TRASH OR TOILET.**

For more information on proper disposal of diabetic materials, call the St. Joseph County Health Department at (574) 235-9750 or the Saint Joseph Health System Diabetes Resource Center at (574) 335-2372.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 5 Easter Egg Hunt (Central Park)
- Apr 10 City Offices Closed (Good Friday)
- Apr 11 Best Disc Doubles Tournament (Wilson Park)
- Apr 17 Teen Nerf Night (Battell Center)
- May 9 Mom & Mini Day Party (Battell Center)
- May 16 Kids to Parks Day (Hillis Hans Park)

2020 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Presented by
Mayor David A. Wood

March 23rd - 7PM
Battell Center Auditorium

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Free tax prep & e-filing assistance in
St. Joseph County.
CALL 2-1-1 to schedule your appointment
Feb. 11th – Apr. 14th

ONLINE ACCESS

- <http://mishawaka.in.gov>
- <http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>
- <http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>
- <http://mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation>
- <https://twitter.com/MishawakaMayor>
- <https://instagram.com/MishawakaMayor/>

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics. They cannot publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you! They will never share your information or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

U.S. Census History: Thomas Jefferson directed the first decennial census (once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas) in 1790. As required by the U.S. Constitution, a census has been taken every 10 years thereafter. In 1840, the Census Act authorized the establishment of a centralized Census Office. In 1902, the Census Office became a permanent organization within the Department of the Interior. A year later, it was renamed the Bureau of the Census and moved to the new Department of Commerce and Labor.

How to Count Young Children in the 2020 Census

Responding to the 2020 Census is an easy, safe, and important way to help provide resources for children and their communities for the next ten years. Everyone living in the United States is asked to complete this simple questionnaire that asks for basic information about the people who live or sleep in their home. Children under the age of five; however, are often missed. Young children who are missed in the census tend to live with large, extended families or with multiple families living under one roof. When newborn babies and children are not counted, support for programs such as health insurance, hospitals, childcare, food assistance, schools and early childhood development is impacted.

If you have children in your home, make sure they are counted in the right place:

- Count children in the home where they live and sleep most of the time, even if their parents don't live there.
- If a child's time is divided between more than one home, count them where they stay most often. If their time is evenly divided or you don't know where they stay most often, count them where they are staying on Census Day--April 1, 2020.
- If a child's family (or guardian) is moving during March or April 2020, count them at the address where they are living at on April 1, 2020.
- Count children in your home if they don't have a permanent place to live and are staying in your home on April 1, 2020, even if they are only staying with you temporarily.
- Count newborn babies at the home where they will live and sleep most of the time, even if they are still in the hospital on April 1, 2020.

The 2020 Census helps determine which areas qualify for the critical resources that children and families depend on for the next 10 years—basically an entire childhood! This is very important to Mishawaka and our public school system! An estimated 5 percent of kids under the age of five years old were missed in the 2010 Census. At about 1 million babies and young children, that's the largest undercount of any age group. This year the U.S. Census Bureau needs your help in closing the gap from this large undercount in the 2020 Census!

It is our civic responsibility to do our part and comply with the Census and an accurate counting can bring benefits to our community. We believe that Mishawaka is growing and this is our opportunity to determine just how much. We have committed to making sure that we get the word out so that all Mishawaka residents are properly counted. So, when you get that official mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau, please don't just assume it is a scam or junk mail. Please fill it out and return it. Stand up and be counted!

Yours in Mishawaka,



Mishawaka Parks - Calling All Vendors!

Vendor space is now available for the 2020 calendar year for special events at prime park locations throughout the City. Display your homemade arts & crafts, promote a non-profit organization, or a retail or commercial business.

Visit <http://mishawaka.in.gov/parks/vendor-apps> to download the vendor application packet. For any questions or to obtain more information, contact the Mishawaka Parks Department at (574) 258-1664 or via email at parks@mishawaka.in.gov.

Visit Your Parks Challenge 2020!

From April 15 – August 31, 2020, head outside and take advantage of over 20 parks right here in Mishawaka. Track your visits to our parks and memorials, and turn in your completed tracking sheet to the Mishawaka Parks and Recreation Department for a prize (based on the number of locations you visit) and also be entered in a drawing for the Grand Prize - One Family Season Pass for 2021 to the facility of your choice, One Family Pass to the 2021 run of your choosing, and One Swag Bag of Parks & Recreation Gear.

Visit <http://mishawaka.in.gov/parks/visit-your-parks-challenge-2020> for all the details and to download the tracking sheet.